



Republican Policy Committee

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BBA Defectors and Social Security

The following Senators voted in favor of the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) on March 1, 1994 and voted against it on March 2, 1995: Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Thomas Daschle (D-SD), Wendell Ford (D-KY), Ernest Hollings (D-SC), and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). They generally explained that they changed their votes because the BBA did not contain language "protecting" the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability trust funds (OASDI).

Yet these same Senators voted repeatedly to raise taxes on Social Security benefits and divert the proceeds from the tax hike away from the OASDI trust funds.

Background

- The 1983 Social Security Amendments levied a tax on 50 percent of the Social Security benefits of certain retirees — individuals with incomes exceeding \$25,000 and couples with incomes over \$32,000.
- The law stipulated that all of the proceeds from the tax were to be credited to the OASDI trust funds.
- In 1993, this changed with the passage of the Clinton budget. In addition to raising the tax on Social Security benefits, the new law stipulated that proceeds from the increased tax would not be credited to the OASDI trust funds, but to Medicare.
- The six Senators who today switched their votes on the Balanced Budget Amendment voted repeatedly in favor of this raid on the OASDI trust funds.
- The relevant votes are:
 - A vote to table the McCain/Brown amendment to the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93), which would have required that revenues from the increased tax on Social Security benefits be credited to the OASDI trust funds (Vote No. 184, June 25, 1993).

- A vote to table the Lott amendment to strike the tax increase on Social Security income from the Fiscal Year 1994 (FY94) Concurrent Budget Resolution (Vote No. 57, March 24, 1993).
- A vote on the Lautenberg/Exon amendment to the FY94 Concurrent Budget Resolution expressing the "Sense of the Senate" that the tax hike on Social Security benefits be used as "a last resort" (Vote No. 58, March 24, 1993).
- A vote to table the Lott amendment to strike the tax increase on Social Security income from the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93) (Vote No. 169, June 24, 1993). NOTE: Senator Bingaman, alone among the six defectors, voted against tabling the Lott amendment.
- A vote on final passage of OBRA 93 (Vote No. 190, June 25, 1993).
- A vote on the conference report on OBRA 93 (Vote No. 247, August 6, 1993).

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